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White House Bars a Radical Reporter

By FRED P. GRAHAM

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13—The efforts of the underground press to cover the Federal Government with its radical style of journalism have been set back by the White House's denial of a press pass to Tom Forcade, the Washington correspondent for the Underground Press Syndicate.

John W. Warner Jr., Secret Service public relations director, said yesterday that Mr. Forcade had been barred for security reasons.

Citing "certain information" that a security check produced about Mr. Forcade, Mr. Warner said, "It was thought best to deny him admission to the White House. It was simply a case of what's best in the interest of our protective mission."

Neither Mr. Warner nor Gerald Warren, the official in the White House's information office who handled Mr. Forcade's application, would indicate why Mr. Forcade was considered a threat to the President. Neither official could recall a specific instance in which a reporter had been denied White House credentials for security reasons, but both said they were sure that it had happened before.

Pie-Thrower at Hearing

Mr. Forcade, 28 years old, once threw a pie into the face of Otto Larsen, a member of the United States Commission on Obscenity and pornography, during a public hearing of the commission. Mr. Forcade explained after the incident in the spring of 1970 that he was trying to make the point that the idea of the commission was ludicrous.

Today he insisted that he was a "nonviolent person"

with nothing in his background that could imply that he would be a threat to the President. The real issue was the free press implications of excluding the radical press from the White House, he said.

The delays and evasiveness in handling his application had convinced him, he said, that White House press officials were afraid that he would ask embarrassing questions that the "straight" reporters would soft-pedal.

Mr. Forcade said he had come to Washington last May to set up a three-member news bureau for Underground Press Syndicate, which has its headquarters in New York. News dispatches are sent weekly to about 600 newspapers and 100 radio stations in the United States and abroad, he said.

According to Mr. Forcade, Mr. Warren fended off his first request for a press pass by saying that he would have to be admitted to the Senate and House press galleries. His ap-

plication there caused a controversy among the committee of journalists who supervise credentials, but he was finally issued a press card by a 3 to 2 vote.

No Official Report

When he returned to the White House he was told that the Secret Service was checking into his background. He said that Al Wong, the Secret Service agent who was said to be handling his case, never returned his calls, and the first he knew of the denial of his press credentials was when a reporter called yesterday to interview him about it.

"What this amounts to is that any journalist who has been involved in radical politics can't cover the White House," Mr. Forcade said. He said he would try to get "straight" reporters to bring pressure on the White House to let him in.

Jack Sutherland of U.S. News & World Report, president of the White House Correspondents Association, declined to comment. "I don't want to involve myself in these things," he said. "I'll have to handle it as some of my news sources do—no comment."

Mr. Forcade said that he had never been convicted of any offense, and that he had never been arrested in connection with sit-ins or other demonstration. He said he had once been arrested in San Diego on charges of flag desecration and once in Arizona for alleged possession of the drug LSD. Both charges were dropped for lack of evidence, he said.

Mr. Forcade edited a book by Abbie Hoffman, entitled "Steal This Book," which resulted in a dispute between the two "revolutionaries" that was adjudicated in a trial before a "people's court."